

March 1, 2021

Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2500
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

OPPOSE: HB6355 AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

The Fifth and Fourteenth amendments of our U.S. Constitution prohibit all levels of government from arbitrarily or unfairly depriving individuals of their basic Constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property. I believe HB6355 AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS violates those and other amendments, and urge you to vote no on HB6355.

HB6355 dangerously short circuits due process by permitting ordinary untrained and unsworn citizens to substitute for police and court officers in the complaint process. Bypassing the sworn and trained officers of the court in the complaint process can fail to filter out any unfounded or malicious false claims, quickly increase judicial loads, and result in the unfair and unjust seizure of an individual's property and the curtailment of an individual's rights.

It is a slippery slope. HB6355 could easily set the precedent to allow an ordinary citizen to file a claim directly with a court requesting the court to seize an individual's cell phone by simply alleging "I heard [he/she] say that [he/she] makes phone calls while driving without using hands free devices....an act that threatens the lives of the individual and others on the road." The example may seem overstated but is certainly within the realm of HB6355's wide open scope.

Please keep due process in place for all of Connecticut's citizens by voting no on HB6355 as written.

Respectfully submitted,

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